



0862.002400.2

PATENT APPLICATION

2-2-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

ATSUSHI DATE et al.

Application No.: 09/917,833

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: BUS MANAGEMENT BASED
ON BUS STATUS

Examiner: R. Phan

Group Art Unit: 2181

January 23, 2004

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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TC 2100

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,081,576
U.S. Patent No. 5,408,676
U.S. Patent No. 5,440,698
U.S. Patent No. 5,461,723
U.S. Patent No. 5,508,963
U.S. Patent No. 5,619,661
U.S. Patent No. 5,778,200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 23, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

Dennis A. Duchene (Reg. No. 40,595)
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature

January 23, 2004
Date of Signature

DE 4016782

EP 0 702 307

EP 0 710 911

EP 0 773 500

WO 91/14989

WO 91/20041

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated October 24, 2003, is enclosed.

In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

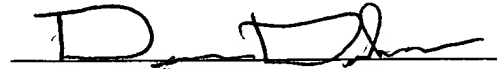
Also cited in the European Search Report were U.S. Patents Nos. 5,253,347 and 5,583,999. These patents have not been cited herein, and copies are not enclosed, because they were cited in a previous European Search Report and were included in an Information Disclosure Statement that was filed in the subject application on July 17, 2003.

An English-language abstract for the above-listed German document is enclosed. Also, the Examiner is directed to the European Search Report for a concise explanation of relevance for each of the documents listed above.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at
(714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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09/917,833

APPLICANT

Atsushi Dat t al.

FILING DATE

July 31, 2001

GROUP

2181

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,081,576	1/92	Ward	395	325	
	5,408,676	4/95	Mori	395	800	
	5,440,698	8/95	Sindhu et al.	395	200.08	
	5,461,723	10/95	Shah et al.	395	293	
	5,508,963	4/96	Sawada et al.	365	200	
	5,778,200	7/98	Gulick	395	293	
	5,619,661	4/97	Crews et al.	395	299	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
4016782	2/91	Germany			Abstract
0 702 307	3/96	Europe			
0 710 911	5/96	Europe			
0 773 500	5/97	Europe			
91/14989	10/91	WIPO			
91/20041	12/91	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1